



The Sphinx

A Newsletter for the American Community in Egypt

Consular Section, United States Embassy Cairo

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متوفر أيضا باللغة العربية

American Citizen Services (ACS)

8 Kamal El Din Salah Street
Garden City, Cairo

(20-2) 2797-3300 (24 hour number
for emergencies* only)

*ACS emergencies include: arrests,
hospitalizations, child custody cases,
welfare and whereabouts requests,
repatriations, deaths, and lost and/or
stolen passports.

For all other services, including
passport renewals, consular reports
of birth abroad, and notarial
requests, please make an
appointment using our website. For
questions, send an email to:

ConsularCairoACS@State.gov

U.S. Embassy Cairo is not a Federal
benefits post. For all questions
about federal benefits please contact
U.S. Consulate Jerusalem directly
at: FBU.Jerusalem@SSA.gov



Voting Via Absentee Ballot

Don't wait, return your voted ballot right away! Remember U.S. embassies and consulates are not polling places; same-day in-person voting is not available outside the United States. The majority of states require voted ballots to reach local election officials by the close of polls on Tuesday, November 8. U.S. citizens who want to participate in the 2016 U.S. elections should already have returned their absentee ballots to their local election officials.

Never received your ballot? If you registered to vote and requested an absentee ballot prior to your state's registration deadline, but have not yet received your ballot, complete and return a [Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot](#) to ensure your vote reaches election officials by your state's deadline. If your regular ballot arrives later, complete and return it as well. Our [Federal Write-In absentee Ballot](#) will only be counted if your regular ballot does not reach local election officials by your state's deadline. Your vote will not be counted twice.

The final date to return your paper ballot to your local election officials by election day for free via the U.S. Embassy is October 24, 2016, though the Embassy will continue to accept absentee ballots until November 30, 2016.

Cont. on Page 2...



Egyptian Emergency Services Numbers

122 Police and Fire Department

123 Ambulance

140 National Phone Directory

16000 Child Emergency Line

What's Inside:



Voting

Pg. 1, 2, 3



Voting FAQ's

Pg. 2



Diversity Visa

Pg. 4



No Eyeglasses
Policy

Pg. 5

Returning Your Absentee Ballot to the U.S. Embassy:

If you wish to drop off your ballot, or have a friend or colleague drop it off for you, place it in either a post-age-paid envelope or envelope bearing domestic U.S. postage addressed to your local election officials. You can get voting assistance from the Embassy or drop off your completed voting forms and ballots, address to your local election officials, during the following hours at the American Citizen Services Section: Sunday—Wednesday from 09:00—12:00.

Q: What if I missed the U.S. Embassy shipment deadline for absentee ballots?

A: Consider returning your ballot to the United States via an express courier such as FedEx, UPS, or DHL or electronically if allowed by your state.

Q: When is the registration deadline?

A: Voting registration deadlines vary by state. Don't wait, do it now! Check your [state's deadline](#). For the earliest ballot delivery, request e-delivery to your e-mail address. Voters who submit FPCA late or request ballots by mail risk late ballot delivery.

Q: Can I vote for all offices?

A: It depends on your state's law. If you temporarily live abroad, you can vote in all elections. If you live abroad permanently, you may only be eligible to vote in federal elections. Contact local election officials for your [state's procedures](#).

Q: Do I need to get my absentee ballot notarized?

A: You do not need to notarize the absentee ballot or any other voting forms, but your state may require a witness to observe you signing the absentee ballot. Contact local election officials for your [state's procedures](#).

Q: Can I register or vote in-person at the embassy or consulate?

A: No - U.S. elections are run at the State level and citizens must communicate directly with their election official to register, request a ballot and vote. Be sure to account for submission and mail delivery time to ensure your forms are received by the State deadline.

Q: I haven't lived in the U.S. for a long time and I don't remember my address. Can I vote in any state?

A: You can vote in the state where you last lived or were registered to vote. You must know your U.S. address to register and receive an absentee ballot. If you don't know your prior address, ask relatives, schools where your children were registered, your bank, or even the Social Security administration.

Q: Is my vote important?

A: Your vote counts! Several past Senate and House races have been decided by margins smaller than the number of overseas votes.



Q: I have never lived in the United States. Can I vote in 2016?

A: If you are a citizen, who has never lived in the U.S. you may also be eligible to vote. Thirty states plus Washington, D.C. allow U.S. citizens with no prior residence to use their parents' last address as theirs. Check state regulations regarding [permanent residence](#).

Q: Does voter registration affect my tax status?

A: Voting in an election for federal offices may not be used as the sole basis of determining residency for the purpose of imposing State and local taxes. When claiming a new legal residence or domicile, legal counsel should be consulted because there may be other factors to consider, such as tax implications.

Q: I am not 18 yet but will be by Election Day 2016. Can I vote?

A: Yes! You can submit your Federal Post Card Application now and complete the process as normal.

Find answers to more of your voting questions and download and print voting materials, including absentee ballots, from www.fvap.gov.



Did you know U.S. military members, their families and overseas citizens can exercise their right to vote from anywhere in the world?

HERE'S HOW:

STEP 1

FILL OUT THE FEDERAL POST CARD APPLICATION (FPCA) AT FVAP.GOV TO REGISTER AND REQUEST A BALLOT

WHEN?
 Send in the FPCA by the State's specific deadline. Find it at FVAP.gov.

STEP 2

FILL OUT AND SEND IN THE BALLOT WHEN IT ARRIVES

WHEN?
 By the recommended mailing date:

November 1, 2016
stateside

October 15, 2016
outside the U.S.

October 10, 2016
on a ship at sea

DIDN'T GET THE BALLOT IN TIME?
 No worries. Get a *Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)* from FVAP.gov.

WANT TO MAKE SURE THE BALLOT WAS RECEIVED?
 Check the status at FVAP.gov.

Have friends or family living abroad or stationed away from home? Let them know they can get more info and assistance at **FVAP.gov**



Americans can vote. Wherever they are.



ACS Services

In an effort to provide the most efficient service, the American Citizen Services unit has an appointment system for all services. To make an appointment, please visit us on-line at egypt.usembassy.gov.

Sign up for new SMS Service

ACS recently announced the launch of a rapid SMS notification system for Americans in Egypt. Going forward, ACS will use the SMS service in addition to our preexisting e-mail messaging to notify subscribers of urgent security-related information. We encourage you to sign up to receive these SMS messages, please send an e-mail with your phone number to cairoconssms@gmail.com.

ACS will be closed on the following dates for local and U.S. federal holidays:

Thursday, November 10 and 24

Sunday, December 11

Sunday, December 25

Want to see something in particular in the next issue of *The Sphinx*? Email us:

ConsularCairoACS@State.Gov

Diversity Visa Lottery

Each year the Department of State conducts a random selection of Diversity Immigrant Visa (DV) applicants. DV-2018 Program: Online registration for the DV-2018 Program began on Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 12:00 noon, Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) (GMT-4), and concludes on Monday, November 7, 2016 at 12:00 noon, Eastern Standard Time (EST) (GMT-4).

On or about May 5, information on the Entrant Status Check on the [Electronic Diversity Visa \(E-DV\)](http://Electronic Diversity Visa (E-DV) website) website is updated to inform all entrants if their online registration was selected or not.

When applying for the Diversity Visa Lottery, remember the following key points:

- Do not fall victim to scams; there is no fee to enter the DV lottery
- 50,000 diversity visas are available worldwide
- Must have high school education to qualify for a diversity visa

For more information on the Diversity Visa Lottery visit the [Department of State](http://Department of State website) website.

Additionally, the Department of State has created a [video](#) for an introduction to the Diversity Visa program, and step-by-step guidance to help you submit an entry. (Note: minor changes have been made to the DV-2018 entry form, but the instructions provided in the video are still valid.)



FVAP.GOV
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

*Voting assistance for Service members,
their families and overseas citizens*



Community Resources

Maintain Your Egyptian Visa Status

The Embassy encourages U.S. citizens to remain in compliance with Egyptian immigration law at all times; your visa status should correspond to your actual purpose of stay.

Basic information about Egyptian visa requirements is available from the Egypt page on travel.state.gov; more details may be obtained from the Egyptian [Passport, Emigration, and Nationality Administration](#), or by consulting with the Immigration Department located in each governorate.

Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Worldwide Caution

On September 25, the Department of State issued a worldwide travel caution. Read the full text of this security message [here](#).



DID YOU KNOW?

AFTER **NOVEMBER 1ST**

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE WILL
NO LONGER ACCEPT

PHOTOS

→

WITH

GLASSES



→





#PicturePerfectPassport

As of **November 1, 2016**, the Embassy will begin to enforce the Consular Affairs “No Eyeglasses Policy” for visa and passport photos. Under this policy, the Embassy will no longer accept photographs of visa or passport applicants wearing eyeglasses, except in rare, medically-documented circumstances.

Under the No Eyeglasses Policy, an applicant may wear eyeglasses in a visa or passport application photograph in rare circumstances of medical necessity. Applicants must provide a medical statement signed by a medical professional/health practitioner in these cases.

If the eyeglasses are accepted for medical reasons the following criteria must be met:

- (a) The frames of the eyeglasses must not cover the eye(s).
- (b) There must not be glare on eyeglasses that obscures the eye(s).
- (c) There must not be shadows or refraction from the eyeglasses that obscures the eye(s).